

*with the Author's compliments.*

(4)

WHO PERFORMED LITHOTOMY ON MR.  
SAMUEL PEPYS?<sup>1</sup>

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WE celebrate to-night the two hundred and forty-sixth anniversary of one of the great events in the life of Samuel Pepys—the day when he was successfully cut for stone at the house of Mrs. Turner in Salisbury-court, Fleet-street. The recollection of the day was often in his thoughts and the entry in his Diary on March 26th, 1660, is a faithful reflection of his usual state of mind at each return of spring. It runs: "This day it is two years since it pleased God that I was cut of the stone at Mrs. Turner's in Salisbury Court. And did resolve while I live to keep it a festival, as I did the last year at my house, and for ever to have Mrs. Turner and her company with me." Two years later, on March 26th, 1662, the entry is: "Up early. This being by God's great blessing the fourth solemn day of my cutting for the stone this day four years, and am by God's mercy in very good health. .... At noon came my good guests, Madame Turner,<sup>2</sup> The.,<sup>3</sup> and Cozen Norton and a gentleman, one Mr. Lewin of the King's Life-Guard. .... I had a pretty dinner for them—viz., a brace of stewed carps, six roasted chickens and a jowl of salmon hot for the first course: a tanzy and two neats' tongues and cheese the second: and were very merry all the afternoon talking and singing and piping upon the flageolette. .... We had a man cook to dress the dinner to-day and sent for Jane to help us." This is but a single example of many such pleasant dinners and in continuation of them we have met here to-night.

But the club is founded to elucidate as well as to celebrate events in the life of Mr. Pepys and I propose to ask to-night who operated upon Mr. Pepys? I do not think that he anywhere mentions the name of the surgeon, but he was on terms of intimacy with two surgeons, Mr. James Pierce and Mr. Thomas Hollier. James Pierce seems to have been under the protection of Lord Sandwich and it was in this manner no doubt that Pepys became acquainted with him. After the Restoration he was appointed surgeon to the Duke of York, Surgeon-General of the Fleet, and Groom

<sup>1</sup> A paper read at the second meeting of the Samuel Pepys Club on March 26th 1904.

<sup>2</sup> Daughter of John Pepys of South Creak and wife of Serjeant John Turner, Reader in Law.

<sup>3</sup> Her daughter, afterwards Lady Harris.

of the Privy Chamber to the Queen. He hoped to be appointed surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital by the influence of the Duke of York when Tom Woodall was killed in a drunken quarrel in 1666, but I do not find that he was ever elected to the office and he must not be mistaken for Mr. William Pearce who was some time a colleague of Mr. Hollier at St. Thomas's Hospital. James Pierce was master of the Barber-Surgeons' Company in 1675 and was at that time surgeon to the King. Although Pierce was well known to Mr. Pepys he does not seem to have consulted him professionally on any occasion and I think we may say with certainty that Pierce was not his lithotomist.

Thomas Hollier was a man of different calibre. He was appointed surgeon "for scald heads" at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1638 and on Jan. 25th, 1643-44 he was chosen surgeon to the hospital in place of Edward Molines, surgeon for the cutting of the stone to the hospital, who had left his place to join the King's army at the beginning of the war. Molines was taken in arms against the Parliament at Arundel Castle and was in consequence deprived of his office as surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital on the day when Hollier was appointed. After the Restoration King Charles ordered the governors to reinstate Molines, but as the place had already been well filled by Hollier the governors were unwilling to displace him. There was a considerable correspondence and the difficulty was solved at last by the appointment of Molines as a fourth or additional surgeon, the stipend of the surgeons being reduced from £40 to £30 apiece.

Mr. Hollier acted as a second warden of the Barber-Surgeons' Company in 1665, when Mr. Serjeant-Surgeon Wiseman was master, and was himself master of the Company in 1673. In 1669 the College of Physicians bought his house and grounds, extending from Warwick-lane to the City walls, for £1200 to build a new college in place of the college in Amen-corner which had been destroyed by the Great Fire. Hollier's position as lithotomist gave him unusual opportunities to perfect his skill and he is said to have cut no less than 30 persons for stone in one year without a single death, a result of which he might be justly proud were he living amongst us now. Hollier seems to have been the trusted medical adviser of Mr. Pepys, for he bled him, gave him sound advice on many occasions, and when Mrs. Pepys was ill he was summoned to attend her, and though a surgeon he refrained from operating. Sir Frederick Bridge, in his recently published book "Samuel Pepys, Lover of Musique" (p. 63), draws attention to certain entries in a volume of the Sloane MSS. at the British Museum.<sup>4</sup> These entries consist of two prescriptions written by Dr. J. M., the second being countersigned by Dr. G. Jolly. The first prescription is headed "Before he was cut for the stone by Mr. Hollier" and is ordered "for Mr. Peapes." It is a soothing

<sup>4</sup> Sloane MSS., No. 1536, f. 63, margin.

draught, such as might still be given with advantage to a patient whose bladder was inflamed. It contains liquorice, marsh mallow, cinnamon, milk, rose water, and the whites of eggs carefully distilled over a slow fire. The dose ordered was six ounces with an ounce of syrup of althea,<sup>5</sup> to be taken daily in the morning and at bedtime. On the next page of the Sloane MS. is a second prescription for a draught to be in readiness when he was cut. "For Mr. Peapes who was cut for ye stone by Mr. Hollier, March ye 28<sup>th</sup> (1658) and had a very great stone taken that day from him." This prescription again is for a cooling and demulcent drink such as we still give to a patient whose mouth is parched after an operation. Its chief constituent was lemon juice to which a little syrup of radishes was added. It shows that Mr. Pepys was expected to be feverish after the operation, but the surgeons did not think he would be collapsed or dangerously ill, for the prescription especially mentions that musk was not to be employed and we know that musk in those days was held to be as sovereign a remedy for collapse as is alcohol now. Indeed, few people died in a regular way until they had received a viaticum of musk. It is curious that the prescription should be dated March 28<sup>th</sup> when Pepys says repeatedly that he was operated upon on March 26<sup>th</sup>, but we all know that there are other and similar discrepancies of date in the Diary which can in no way be reconciled.

I can find nothing about Dr. Jolly, who signs the prescription, except the reference to him under date, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 1662, where Pepys says about a demonstration of anatomy at the Hall of the Barber-Surgeons: "Dr. Scarborough upon my desire and the company's did show very clearly the manner of the disease of the stone and the cutting and all other questions that I could think of ..... how the water comes into the bladder through the three skins or coats just as poor Dr. Jolly has heretofore told me." It appears from this passage that Dr. Jolly had died between the time Pepys was cut and the date of his beginning the Diary in January, 1659-60. There is no mention of Dr. Jolly in the Roll of the College of Physicians, nor was he a graduate of the University of Oxford.

The initials Dr. J. M. at the foot of each prescription stand, I have very little doubt, for Dr. James Moleyns, the leading lithotomist of his time, father of Edward Molines referred to above, and in all probability the master and teacher of Thomas Hollier. I feel a personal interest in James Moleyns because he was a predecessor in the great hospital of St. Bartholomew which I have the honour to serve. He held the office of "surgeon for the stone" both

<sup>5</sup> The syrup of althea itself was: ℞ Roots of Althea two ounces: roots of grass, asparagus, Liquorice cleansed: Raisins stoned: ana half an ounce. Taps of marsh mallow: leaves of mallow, Pellitory: Burnet: Saxifrage: Plaintain: White and Black Maidenhair: ana M. (a handful): Red Cicers an ounce: of the four greater and lesser cold seeds ana three ounces. Infuse them a whole day in clear water, lb. vi. Boil to the consumption of two pounds: then strain and press and with sugar, lbs. iiii. make a syrup in Balneo Mariae according to Art.



a St. Bartholomew's and at St. Thomas's Hospitals. At a time when medicine and surgery were absolutely divorced and surgery held a very inferior position James Moleyns was one of the very few people licensed by the College of Physicians to administer internal medicines in surgical diseases. His licence is dated Sept. 24th, 1627. He died in 1686 and is buried in St. Bride's, Fleet-street.

We have some interesting information in the books at St. Bartholomew's Hospital about Dr. James Moleyns or Mullins. He succeeded Mr. Robert Murrey, surgeon to the Lock Hospital, in 1622 and after a conference between the governors of St. Bartholomew's and those of St. Thomas's Hospitals duties were assigned to him in the following order :—

Vicesimo die Januarii Anno. Dni. 1622-3.

It is ordered by the Governors of this Hospitall that James Mullins Chirurgeon in consideracon of his care and paynes which he is to take in cuttinge and cureinge of poor diseased p'sons of the Stone, and the greifs and Malladies hereunder named, brought to the sev'all hospitalls of St. Barth'ewes and St. Thomas in Sowthwarke, shall have the yearly stipend of xxxli. per anm. from XXmas last past soe longe as he shall discharge the same cures to the good likeinge of the Governors of the said hospitalls viz. xvi. of his said stipend to be paid him quarterly from this hospitall and the other xvi. from St. Thomas' Hospl. and he is alsoe to be allowed two pounds of towe for every patient for theire more easie and warmer dressinge.

For the annuall stipend of thirty pounds I under take (wth. God his helpe) my best skill and experience the manuall operacon and chirurgicall cuer of these issuuing Maladies viz.

The Cureinge by insition the stone in the yard or Bladder.

The cureinge of the rupture or falling downe of the Intestines or gутts into the Codds by Cuttinge.

The Cureinge by Insition the Carnosity or fleshie substance in the Codds.

Also the Curinge of Wennis by Insition.

Desiringe that for every patient I may have the<sup>1</sup> allowance of 2 pounds of towe for theire easier and warmer dressinge.

It will appear from these statements that the governors of the two hospitals appointed a special surgeon for the treatment of those conditions which had so far fallen into the hands of quacks (lithotomists, hernia specialists, and fistula curers) that the ordinary surgeons left them untended. It was no doubt due to these wise orders and to the appointment of suitable persons at the hospitals that lithotomy and hernia once more came to be considered a part of legitimate surgery. Now I think it is clear from the facts I have brought together that Mr. Pepys was operated upon by Mr. Hollier who had called into consultation his old master, Dr. James Mullins. He thus came under the care of the two best lithotomists of the time and I suspect that they used more than two pounds of tow for his dressings. If Mr. Hollier was his lithotomist there is a good reason why he should have taken rooms at Mrs. Turner's in Salisbury-court, for he would wish to be as near as possible to his surgeon who was living in Warwick-lane.